

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of managing unread unopened electronic messages comprising the steps of:

displaying a home screen on a visual display;

providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unread unopened electronic messages received, and an associated value reflecting the number of unread unopened electronic messages received;

selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing ~~enabling-review of summaries to view portions of~~ unread electronic messages, ~~the electronic messages including at least one received without opening the unread electronic messages~~ message in an unopened state;

redisplaying the home screen with the first indicator on the visual display, following display of the message listing, and while the at least one electronic message is in the unopened state; and

altering the first indicator to provide, ~~at the location on the home screen,~~ a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation that a new unread unopened electronic messages have message is been received, the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation distinguishing the new unopened electronic message from the at least one electronic message in the unopened state following display of the message listing.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method of managing ~~unread~~ unread ~~unopened~~ unopened electronic messages comprising the steps of:

displaying a home screen on a visual display;

providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of ~~unread~~ unread ~~unopened~~ unopened electronic messages received, and an associated value reflecting the number of ~~unread~~ unread ~~unopened~~ unopened electronic messages received;

selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing enabling-
~~review of summaries to view portions of~~ unread ~~electronic~~ unread ~~messages, the electronic messages including at least one received~~
~~without opening the unread electronic messages~~ message in an
unopened state;

redisplaying the home screen with the first indicator on the visual display,
following display of the message listing, and while the at least one
electronic message is in the unopened state; and

generating a second indicator at, or proximate to, the location on the home screen, to provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation by altering the first indicator with the non-numerical annunciation to reflect that a new electronic messages have
message is been received, the visually distinguishable non-
numerical annunciation distinguishing the new electronic message
from the at least one electronic message in the unopened state
following display of the message listing.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

displaying an icon with the first and second indicators; and
altering the icon by flashing, bolding, changing the size, and changing the color of the icon.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:
adding indicia to the first indicator.

7-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein the step of altering the first indicator comprises altering at least one of the an unread unopened mail icon and the a count of unopened electronic messages.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for managing electronic messages received, comprising:
a visual display;
a home screen displaying one or more icons corresponding to functions that can be performed by the system;
a message listing providing summaries portions of each of unread received electronic messages ~~received without opening the unread electronic messages~~ including at least one electronic message in an unopened state;

input means for selectively displaying the message listing on the visual display, and redisplaying the home screen on the visual display while the at least one electronic message is in the unopened state;

a first indicator at a location on the home screen for indicating the presence of a number of ~~unread~~ electronic messages in an unopened state from among the received electronic messages and an associated value reflecting the number of ~~unread~~ electronic messages in an unopened state received; and

a second indicator at, or proximate, to the location on the home screen that alters the first indicator to provide a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation reflecting ~~the presence of that new unread unopened~~ electronic messages have been received, the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation distinguishing the new unopened electronic messages from the at least one electronic message in the unopened state following display of the message listing.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 11, wherein the visually distinguishable annunciation comprises an alteration to the count of ~~unread~~ unopened electronic messages received.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 13, wherein the alteration to the count comprises at least one of:

bolding the count, flashing the count, changing the size of the count, and changing the color of the count.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein the second indicator comprises additional indicia on the display.
16. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 11, wherein the second indicator comprises a message icon on the display adjacent the count of unread unopened electronic messages received, and the annunciation of the presence of a new unread unopened electronic messages message received since the message list was last displayed comprises altering the message icon.
17. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 16, wherein altering the message icon comprises at least one of:
- bolding the icon, flashing the icon, changing the size of the icon, and
 - changing the color of the icon.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Currently Amended) A method of managing unread unopened electronic messages comprising the steps of:
- displaying a home screen on a visual display;
 - providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the presence of a number of unread unopened electronic messages received, and a first associated value reflecting the number of unread unopened electronic messages received;
 - selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing ~~enabling review of summaries to view portions of~~ unread unopened electronic messages ~~received without opening the unread electronic messages;~~

redisplaying the home screen with the first indicator on the visual display,
following display of the message listing, and while at least one
electronic message is still in an unopened state; and

providing a second indicator at the location on the home screen, reflecting
the that a number of new unread unopened electronic messages
have been received, the second indicator distinguishing the new
unopened electronic messages from the at least one electronic
message in the unopened state represented by the first indicator
following display of the message listing.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of managing ~~unread~~ unopened electronic messages comprising the steps of:

displaying a home screen on a visual display;

providing, at a location on the home screen, a first indicator of the
presence of a number of ~~unread~~ unopened electronic messages
received, and an associated value reflecting the number of ~~unread~~
unopened electronic messages received;

selectively displaying on the visual display a message listing enabling-
~~review of summaries to view portions~~ of the unread electronic
messages received ~~without opening of the unread electronic~~
~~messages;~~

redisplaying the home screen with the first indicator on the visual display,
following display of the message listing, and while at least one
electronic message is in an unopened state; and

altering the first indicator to provide, ~~at the location on the home screen,~~ a
visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation that a new
~~unread unopened~~ electronic ~~messages have~~ message is been
received, the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation
distinguishing the new unopened electronic message from the at

~~least one electronic message in the unopened state following display of the message listing; and~~

updating the associated value to provide a single value simultaneously reflecting the ~~number of unread~~ new unopened electronic ~~messages~~ message and the ~~number of new unread~~ at least one electronic message ~~received following display of the message listing in the unopened state.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining a Boolean value associated with the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation; and

triggering the Boolean value, upon receipt of the new ~~unread~~ unopened electronic ~~messages~~ message following ~~display~~ redisplaying of the ~~message listing~~ home screen, to control displaying of the visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation.

22. (New) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

maintaining the alteration of the first indicator until selectively redisplaying on the visual display the message listing while the new unopened electronic message is in an unopened state.

23. (New) The method of Claim 4, further comprising:

removing the second indicator upon selectively redisplaying on the visual display the message listing while the new unopened electronic message is in an unopened state.

24. (New) The system of Claim 11, wherein the second indicator is removed upon selectively redisplaying on the visual display the message listing while the new unopened electronic message is in an unopened state.
25. (New) The method of Claim 19, further comprising:
removing the second indicator upon selectively redisplaying on the visual display the message listing while a new unopened electronic message is in an unopened state.
26. (New) The method of Claim 20, further comprising:
maintaining the alteration of the first indicator until selectively redisplaying on the visual display the message listing while the new unopened electronic message is in an unopened state.
27. (New) A method of managing unopened electronic messages comprising the steps of:
displaying a home screen on a visual display;
receiving a first electronic message and initially storing the first electronic message in an unopened state;
initializing a recently checked Boolean value to false when a message listing is not displayed on the visual display; and
triggering the recently checked Boolean value to true when the message listing is displayed on the visual display and while the first electronic message is in the unopened state,
wherein, following display of the message listing on the visual display and while the first electronic message is in the unopened state, the recently checked Boolean value is set to false when a second

electronic message in an unopened state is received, and the home screen is displayed on the visual display.

28. (New) The method of Claim 27, wherein a visually distinguishable non-numerical annunciation is displayed on the home screen when the recently checked Boolean value is set to false.